

CHAPTER 118  
CRISIS CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

PREAMBLE

These rules establish a special licensure or registration classification for crisis child care providers and set forth the requirements for the provision of crisis child care, also known as crisis nursery care, which is provided on a temporary basis when there is reason to believe a child may be subject to abuse or neglect. Crisis child care providers must be registered or licensed under Iowa Code chapter 237A and must have participated or be participating in one of the crisis nursery pilot projects initiated under the federal crisis nursery grant program.

**441—118.1(237A) Definitions.**

*“Crisis”* means an emergency situation which results in a child being abused or neglected or at risk of abuse or neglect. A crisis is not a situation involving the need for a substitute child care provider for working parents when the regular child care provider is unavailable, nor is it a situation so severe that the child should be referred to the department for an alternative out-of-home placement.

*“Crisis child care”* means temporary child care which is provided without regard to the parent’s income to children at risk of abuse or neglect or who have experienced abuse or neglect for up to 72 continuous hours per placement episode, not to exceed 30 days in any year.

*“Crisis child care provider”* or *“provider”* means a licensed child care center or a registered family or group day care home which has participated or is participating in one of the crisis nursery pilot projects initiated under the federal crisis nursery grant program.

*“Eligible family”* means any parent or adult acting as a parent and the child(ren) in the person’s care who is at risk of or is experiencing abuse or neglect due to a crisis situation, and who resides within the service area as defined by the individual crisis nursery pilot project.

**441—118.2(237A) Standards.** Child care centers that provide crisis child care shall meet the standards established in 441—Chapter 109. Family or group day care homes that provide crisis child care shall meet the standards established in 441—Chapter 110. In addition to these standards, crisis child care providers shall meet the following requirements:

**118.2(1) Records.** The provider shall maintain records that include:

*a.* Documentation that the site of the provider has been personally visited by crisis nursery project personnel prior to the signing of an agreement for the provision of crisis child care services. The documentation shall consist of a copy of a written report prepared by crisis nursery project personnel which includes the date of the site visits and a description of information given to the prospective provider regarding the program requirements, philosophy, and purpose of the crisis child care program; an assessment of the provider’s level of understanding and interest in the provision of crisis child care; and an assessment of the physical setting.

*b.* A copy of a dated, written agreement between the crisis nursery pilot project and the crisis child care provider that includes the terms for the provision of crisis child care including, but not limited to, terms of payment, the availability of services, and training requirements.

*c.* Documentation that the crisis child care provider has participated in an orientation session provided by personnel of the crisis nursery pilot project including training in procedures and policies related to the individual crisis nursery site.

**118.2(2) *Physical care standards.***

- a.* Grouping children in sleeping areas shall take into consideration the age, sex, characteristics, and history (if known) of the children.
- b.* Children two years of age or older shall be provided a sleeping area other than the provider's own bedroom.
- c.* Waterbeds shall not be used for children under the age of two.
- d.* There shall be provisions for isolating from other children a child who is suspected of having a contagious disease.

**118.2(3) *Health policies.*** Crisis child care placement often precludes the availability of the child's immunization and physical examination report at the time of the crisis. When these reports are not available prior to receiving crisis child care services, personnel of the crisis nursery project shall do the following:

- a.* Weigh, measure, and assess each child's physical condition.
- b.* Secure information from the parent regarding the child's current health status, allergies, medications, or other professionally prescribed treatment.
- c.* Obtain parental permission to secure emergency medical care.
- d.* Provide the above information to the crisis child care provider.
- e.* Request the child's immunization and current physical examination information from the child's physician within one week of the crisis care admission.
- f.* Maintain the immunization and physical examination information on file at the crisis nursery project and make this information available to the crisis child care provider upon request and at the time of any future admission to crisis child care.

**441—118.3(237A) Additional requirements for family and group day care homes.**

**118.3(1)** Reference checks. For all family and group day care homes, at least three references shall be checked by crisis nursery project personnel and responses documented in the provider's registration record. For crisis child care providers who are also licensed to provide foster care, references required pursuant to 441—Chapter 113 shall be adequate. Reference checks shall include only those areas related to the ability of the provider to care for children and shall include discussion of the following areas:

- a.* How long and in what capacity the reference has known the provider.
- b.* Personal qualities of the provider, including the ability to deal with children's problem behaviors and the ability to give affection and care.
- c.* How the provider handles anger, problems, crisis situations, and discipline.
- d.* Suitability of the provider to provide crisis child care services for up to 72 continuous hours.

**118.3(2)** For family day care home providers, a smoke detector shall be placed in each child sleeping area and at the top of every stairway.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 237A.27 and 1993 Iowa Acts, Senate File 221, section 12.

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